

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
IO-14 ACDA-12 /103 W
-----042756 121422Z /40

R 111015Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4532
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

UNCLAS STUTTGART 1529

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: DATE SET FOR NOMINATION OF FILBINGER'S SUCCESSOR

REF: STUTTGART 1512

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 9, LANDTAG FACTION LEADER ERWIN TEUFEL CONFIRMED THAT ON AUGUST 16 FILBINGER'S SUCCESSOR WILL BE NOMINATED BY THE LANDTAG FACTION FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE LANDESVORSTAND (STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE). THE NOMINEE WILL STAND FOR FORMAL ELECTION AT A LANDTAG SESSION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 30. AS THE CDU LANDTAG FACTION HAS RULED OUT AN "INTERIM MINISTER-PRESIDENT" SOLUTION, THE COMPETITION HAS BEEN REDUCED TO A STRUGGLE BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTER/DEPUTY
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LAND CHAIRMAN LOTHAR SPAETH AND STUTTGART'S MAYOR MANFRED ROMMEL. ALTHOUGH TEUFEL MADE NO STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CHANCES OF SPAETH AND ROMMEL, IT WAS RUMORED THAT SPAETH IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST 40 OF THE 71 CDU LANDTAG DEPUTIES.

2. A NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS BENEFITTING SPAETH ARE CITED WITHIN THE FACTION AND THE PARTY. THE LIBERAL ELEMENTS OF HIS POLICY

WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTY AND WOULD NOT BURDEN IT WITH AN ABRUPT CHANGE OF COURSE, WHEREAS THE CDU MAY RUN THE RISK OF BREAKING ASUNDER OVER LIKELY INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN THE CONSERVATIVE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CONTINUING LEADERSHIP OF LAND CHAIRMAN FILBINGER AND A MUCH MORE LIBERAL

MINISTER PRESIDENT ROMMEL. FURTHERMORE, IF ROMMEL WERE CHOSEN MINISTER-PRESIDENT, THE CDU WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY FINDING A SUITABLE CANDIDATE WITH GOOD CHANCES OF WINNING THE ELECTION TO SUCCEED ROMMEL AS MAYOR OF STUTTGART. THE CDU GAINED THIS BASTION IN STUTTGART ONLY FOUR YEARS AGO AND WOULD NOT LIKE TO JEOPARDIZE ITS CHANCES OF RETAINING IT. ROMMEL'S SURPRISINGLY QUICK ANNOUNCEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER FILBINGER'S RESIGNATION, OF WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE THE RATHAUS FOR THE STATE MINISTRY ALSO SEEMS TO BE WORKING AGAINST HIM. THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG CDU, WHICH HOPES TO ELECT A STRONG LONG-TERM MINISTER-PRESIDENT IS WONDERING WHETHER ROMMEL WOULD BE SATISFIED TO STAY ON IN THAT OFFICE SHOULD HE BE OFFERED A MINISTRY IN BONN AFTER THE BUDESTAG ELECTIONS IN 1980. ROMMEL APPEARS TO DRAW MOST OF HIS SUPPORT FROM THE CDU DEPUTIES REPRESENTING THE CITIES OF BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG. THEY APPARENTLY FEEL THAT ROMMEL HAS GREATER POPULARITY AMONG THE PEOPLE WHICH WOULD IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF RETAINING THEIR SEATS IN THE 1980 LANDTAG ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE PERIOD BEFORE THE AUGUST 16 NOMINATION DATE IS PROBABLY TOO SHORT FOR ROMMEL'S SUPPORTERS TO CONVINCE A MAJORITY OF THE FACTION MEMBERS. AND INFLUENCE IN THE SELECTION PROCESS WOULD ALSO BE FILBINGER'S

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PREFERENCE AS TO WHOM HIS SUCCESSOR SHOULD BE BUT THAT PREFERENCE HAS NOT YET BECOME KNOWN.

3. IN SUM, THE RACE BETWEEN SPAETH AND ROMMEL IS INTENSIFYING, WITH SPAETH STILL IN THE LEAD, BUT ROMMEL RUNNING HARD AND PERHAPS CLOSING THE GAP.

GROENEWEG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STUTT01529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780330-0483
Format: TEL
From: STUTTGART
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780872/aaaachyw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2d38264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STUTTGART 1512
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1763024
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATE SET FOR NOMINATION OF FILBINGER'S SUCCESSOR
TAGS: PINT, GE, (FILBINGER), (SPAETH, LOTHAR), (ROMMEL, MANFRED)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2d38264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014